

Bioenergy Council Conference Meeting Notes

October 2, 2013

Teleconference held at 01:30 PM

Members Participating: Jamie Derr (Co-Chair), David Donovan (Co-Chair), Andrew Fiene, Tim Clay, Jeff Landin, T.J. Morice, Gary Radloff, Don Nelson, and Michael Allen.

Agency Staff Participating: Amanda Mott, Dave Siebert, Deborah Erwin, Sara Walling, Roger Kasper and Ty Rohloff

Welcome and Introductions (Jamie Derr)

Jamie started the meeting with participants announcing themselves and thanking everyone that was able to participate.

Review the Statutory Purpose and Council Functions (Dave Donovan)

Dave provided a general overview of the purpose of the council and the establishment under s. 15.137(6), Stats. Dave emphasized the main functions of the committee. He had also mentioned that the both chairs terms expire in 2014 and some thought needs to be given for continuance or transition. The Council's main task is to review the existing guidelines and issue list so we can vote on them at the next meeting.

Review Current Membership (Ty Rohloff)

Ty gave an update on finding member replacements and welcomed the new members of the Council.

- Don Nelson is replacing Henry Schienbeck. Don is employed with Packaging Corporation of America in product procurement.
- Michael Allen is an environmental attorney who has experience in the bioenergy field including work with the Charter Street plant.
- Russ Raeder from the USDA is replacing Susan Butler.

All three new members have terms that last until 2016. There are three vacancies on the Council yet and a fourth that is a possibility. Needed yet are a tribal, counties/towns, and a wildlife representative. There is also the option of adding an economic/financing seat on the council. The goal is to have those positions filled by the next meeting.

What's Happening (Jamie Derr)

- Jamie attended the recent annual meeting of [CenUSA Bioenergy](#) and recommended other members might like reviewing the information on their website. This site is the home of an ambitious Iowa State University-based, USDA sponsored, research project investigating the creation of a Midwestern sustainable biofuels system. CenUSA is a 5-year project and will run from 2011 to 2015.
- Gary Radloff suggested others would like reviewing the bipartisan review of the Renewable Fuel Standard with the white paper [Examining "Blend Wall" Challenges](#).

- Various people raised numerous questions on the status and descriptions of biomass heating supports and technical standard proposals circulating plus EPA's need to respond to a recent court order requiring the development of biomass CO2 standards. General consensus is that no certain future for any political/legal/financial resolution of any topics in the near future. Topics like the Farm Bill are far from settled.
- Roger mentioned that [Poet's Project Liberty](#) is reported to have been getting good data collection in their second harvest of corn stover. Any public report will be shared when released. Plus, [Virent's recent announcement](#) that they have an agreement with Coca Cola to produce bioplastic product on a commercial scale in the near future. No one knows where that first plant will be located and what biomass is intended to be used as the feedstock.

Non-Forest Sustainable Biomass Guidelines (Sara Walling)

One of the responsibilities of the Council is to advise the secretary on sustainable biomass production. There was discussion during the last meeting whether there was a need to update the non-forest biomass guidelines that was finalized in 2011. After the July meeting the question was posed to the chairs of the technical team who helped draft the guidelines. It was determined that at this point there is no need to make any changes. The suggestion was made by Scott Hull from the DNR that the task should be re-visited in 2015. His response to Sara Walling was forwarded to the entire group in an earlier e-mail. Dave Donovan suggested that a formal vote should be on the next meeting agenda whether or not to accept the technical team's suggestion.

Policy and Topic Issues from 2012 (Ty Rohloff)

Very few recommendations were added since the July meeting. The list is how it was left as of last year, but needs clarification. The group chairs decided that a separate meeting is needed to update and clarify the topics. The meeting will be targeted for mid-November with a goal of submitting a final set of recommendations to the secretary in early 2014. A Doodle poll link has been included at the bottom of the minutes for selecting the next meeting date. Everyone should look over all the issues and provide support materials and opinions to help flush out specifics on issues and concise review of positions held on them. There were several councilpersons who agreed to use their expertise to address specific points on the list as follows:

- Dave Donovan – Policy & program collaboration between the State and Federal government
- T.J. Morice – Thermal standards and initiatives
- Michael, Amanda and Dave Donovan – Third-party ownership of bioenergy projects and other legal/financial topics that could possibly be expanded.

If there's any other refinements or suggestions please e-mail Ty by **October 25, 2013** so that I may include them on the next agenda for discussion in November. ty.rohloff@wisconsin.gov

Overview of Decision Support tool (Gary Radloff)

Gary gave an update on a land use planning tool that he and his colleagues have been developing. The application will give users a chance to see the local impact land use changes have for varying biomass projects. The tool is designed to calculate an impact on things ranging from the ecosystem to the economy. Some of the group members were interested in a presentation. When the program is ready for a display there is a possibility of doing a demo at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in Madison.

Next Steps (Jamie and Dave)

In closing, the co-chairs thanked members for their participation. The next meeting will focus on discussion for final revisions on the suggestions list for the secretary.

A reminder was given to:

- 1) *Submit any final comments, regarding the issues for consideration on the Guidelines by October 25th***
- 2) *Gary Radloff and T.J. Morice had forwarded some information to the Council for review. If you need another copy or link to the information please let them or Ty know.***
- 3) *Sign up on Doodle with their availability for a mid-November meeting (November 12, 13 or 14).***

Meeting adjourned.